(c) whether Government would consider to regulate the employment of domestic child servants with a view to provide them protection against inhuman treatment and low wages being paid by the employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) and (b) There is no specific and authentic information available in regard to exploitation and harassment of domestic child labour, as no authentic census or survey has been conducted in this matter. However, the phenomenon of children working as domestic servants on account of socio-economic conditions cannot be denied. The policy of Government is to prohibit employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and other hazardous employments and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 seeks to ban employment of children in certain hazardous occupations|processes and regulate the working conditions of children in other employments where child labour is not legally prohibited. A Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act to advise the Government regarding addition of more occupations|processes to the schedule of prohibited employments.

(c) The employment of children as domestic servants is in a widely scattered and unorganised sector and evolving a system for regulating this sector has not been found administratively feasible.

Free supply of water and electricity to farmers

1359. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide free supply of water and electricity to farmers for agriculture purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, in what manner Governmen would support the farmers with a view to help them in competing with the soaring prices in the market;

(c) whether Government would subsidise supply of water, electricity and fertilizer etc. for agriculture purpose to provide the relief to farmers; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such subsidies ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While fixing the minimum support prices for the agicultural commodities, the cost of agricultural inputs like water, electricity, fertiliser, etc. are being taken note of.

(c) and (d) Supply of water and electricity to farmers is a state subject. The Central Government have no direct control on the tariffs fixed by the State Electricity Boards or by the State Irrigation Departments. Fertilisers are being subsidised taking note of the cost of production, including capital cost, transport cost and distribution.

Construction of over-bridges in Maharashtra

1360. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have recommended for construction of the over-bridges at (i) Tadali Railway crossing, (ii) Babupet Railway crossing; and (iii) Bisapur Railway crossing;

(b) whether the State Government have agreed to bear 15 per cent of the total cost of construction of the over-bridges;

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(d) if so, by when the work is likely to start on all the three bridges; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir, only in respect of Tadali and Bisapur Railway crossings.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, at this stage.

(e) The State Government is at present formulting schemes for the two works jointly with the Railway. After these proposals are finalised and sponsored by the State Government duly consenting to bear|share the cost, as per rules, the Railway can take further action in the matter.

Retention price to fertilizer plants

1361. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain units got more retention price that justified in the cases of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Units having low utilisation capacity are not being protected; and

(d) if so, what steps are being proposed to be taken to protect such Units?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (d) Retention prices of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertiliser manufacturing units are fixed on the basis of among others norms of capacity utilisation laid down for ammonia plants and phosphoric acid plants. Fixation of retention prices is preceded by a detailed technical examination of the operating parameters of the manufacturing units. The retention price and subsidy scheme has been structured to prevent as far as possible payment of more subsidy than is justified. Units which do not achieve the normative capacity utilisation level are not compensated. There is no proposal to protect such units as it would amount to encouraging inefficiency.

Capacity utilization by fertilizer plants

1362. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of units producing fertilizers had not attained fuller utilization of its capacity, during the last three years;

(b) the names thereof and reasons therefor and what is the percentage of Capacity Utilisation in each case:

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are monitoring the production of these units, if so, what was the production of each fertilizer during the last two years, yearwise; and

(d) what are the norms on which subsidy is being given and who certifies these norms?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The names of the fertilizer plants, their production and capacity utilisation during the last three years, yearwise are given in the attached statement *(See Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 57)* Low capacity utilisation is mainly due to design deficiencies, frequent equipment break downs, power problems, industrial